

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 217 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
ALL EC CAPITALS ACCRA ANKARA ASUNCION ATHENS BOGOTA BUENOS
AIRES CANBERRA CARACAS DAKAR HELSINKI JAKARTA LIMA LISBON
MADRID MANILA MEXICO MONTEVIDEO OSLO OTTAWA PRAGUE PRETORIA
SANTIAGO STOCKHOLM SUVA TEL AVIV TOKYO TUNIS VIENNA WELLINGTON
GENEVA JOHANNESBURG MELBOURNE MAR 25.
QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 10217

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ICFTU, ILO, ELAB

SUBJ: ICFTU BOARD MEETING: KEY DECISIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 9861 (NOTAL)

(B) BRUSSELS 9838 (NOTAL)

1. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION TAKEN BY THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING IN HAMBURG MAY 17-19 WAS TO APPROVE FILING
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OF AN ILO COMPLAINT AGAINST THE USSR AND POLAND FOR VIO-
LATING TRADE UNION FREEDOMS (REF A). IN ADDITION, THE
BOARD RESOLVED TO "INTENSIFY ACTION FOR THE REESTABLISH-
MENT OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN TUNISIA" (REF B).

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS, ACCORDING TO ICFTU SOURCES,
DEALT WITH:

A. INDONESIA. A DELEGATION OF ICFTU BOARD MEMBERS WILL VISIT INDONESIA AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT CONGRESS OF THE ALL-INDONESIA LABOUR FEDERATION (FBSI), STILL NOT SCHEDULED, BUT LIKELY TO BE HELD LATE THIS YEAR. A "FACT-FINDING" GROUP MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF ICFTU AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIAT STAFFERS, WILL GO TO JAKARTA IN A FEW WEEKS AS AN ADVANCE TEAM.

B. WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL). ALTHOUGH THE BOARD PASSED NO RESOLUTION ON RELATIONS WITH THE WCL, THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT THE ICFTU SHOULD LET ITS FUTURE POSTURE TOWARD THE WCL HINGE ON HOW WCL PEOPLE HANDLE THEMSELVES AT THE ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH: I.E., WHETHER THEY TAKE POSITIONS CLOSE TO THE ICFTU'S OR TO THOSE OF THE EAST EUROPEANS.

C. SOUTH AFRICA. A BOARD RESOLUTION URGES AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS TO "CONTINUE PUTTING STRONGEST PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS FOR DISINVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, ESPECIALLY WHERE UNION RIGHTS ARE DENIED" AND TO "CONTINUE MOBILIZING RANK-AND-FILE PRESSURE CAMPAIGNS ON COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, COORDINATED WITH ORGANIZATION EFFORTS INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA."

D. CHILE. THE BOARD ADOPTED (WITHOUT PUBLICITY) A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CLARIFICATION" OF THE ICFTU'S 1975 CONGRESS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A BOYCOTT OF CHILE, WHICH HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY VERY FEW NATIONAL CENTERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF LABOR (FOL) HAS TAKEN THE RESOLUTION VERY SERIOUSLY, HOWEVER, AND THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE FOL'S JIM KNOX THE BOARD APPROVED A FURTHER RESOLUTION THAT WILL ALLOW THE FOL TO LIFT ITS SHIPPING BAN ON CHILE WITHOUT ITS LEADERS BEING ACCUSED OF VIOLATING ICFTU POLICY.

E. INTERNATIONAL FAIR LABOR STANDARDS. A 14,000-WORD ICFTU "DEVELOPMENT CHARTER," IN GESTATION FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, WAS APPROVED. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CHARTER ASKS THAT INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS INCLUDE "NEW RULES...TO ENSURE THAT EXPORTERS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MEET MINIMUM FAIR LABOR STANDARDS." (FULL TEXT OF CHARTER POUCHED TO S/IL.)

F. INTEGRATION OF WOMEN. THE BOARD ENDORSED A PAPER TITLED "THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS," WHICH CALLS FOR THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF MORE WOMEN TO TRADE UNION POSITIONS. (THE ICFTU

EXECUTIVE BOARD INCLUDES ONLY ONE WOMAN, SHIRLEY CARR, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS (CLC), WHO TOLD THE ICFTU BOARD THAT IN THE CLC A MALE VICE PRESIDENT IS IN CHARGE OF WOMEN WORKER QUESTIONS.)

G. URUGUAY. THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF URUGUAYAN WORKERS (CGTU) WAS SUSPENDED IN HOPES THAT THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE A "SALUTARY IMPACT" WITHIN THE CGTU, E.G., BRINGING ABOUT "REINSTATEMENT OF ALL THE DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISTS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THAT CONFEDERATION," ACCORDING TO A SECRETARIAT PAPER.

H. NEXT ICFTU CONGRESS. THE 12TH ICFTU WORLD CONGRESS IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MADRID OCTOBER 1 TO 5, 1979.
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I. NEW AFFILIATES. APPLICATIONS FOR AFFILIATION WERE ACCEPTED FROM THE BASUTOLAND FEDERATION OF LABOR, WHICH CLAIMS 12,000 MEMBERS, AND THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION OF THE SEYCHELLES, WHICH CLAIMS 6,000 MEMBERS. A THIRD NEW AFFILIATE, THE LESOTHO COUNCIL OF WORKERS, WITH A CLAIMED MEMBERSHIP OF 2,000, WAS ACCEPTED ON THE CONDITION THAT IT SUPPLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ITS MEMBER UNIONS. HINTON UNQUOTE VANCE

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